

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

11/3/09

(Standup Week 234)

Tuesday, 6pm–7pm

Why are we in Iraq?

Not because of weapons of mass destruction. **Not** because Iraq was involved in 9/11. **Not** because Iraq was a threat to our national security.

What have we gotten?

In Iraq

US military dead: **4,355**
US military wounded: **31,545**
Iraqi civilians killed: **102,330***
Money spent on war: **\$697 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **909**
US military wounded: **4,198**
Afghani civilians killed: **14,029**
Money spent on war: **\$231 billion**

Who are we?

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War has pledged to “Stand Up” until the war ends and the troops come home safely.

Every Tuesday evening at 6 pm (rain or shine), **Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War** assembles on the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 24th Street to facilitate “**Chelsea Stands Up Against the War,**” a community protest against the war in Iraq.

We carry banners, signs, and candles as we gather for one hour each week to protest the war in Iraq. We distribute this newsletter, peace buttons, collect signatures on petitions and speak with our neighbors about the need to end war in Iraq. The **Stand Up** make a dramatic statement to passing vehicular traffic on 8th avenue.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is an all-volunteer organization that wants to build the broadest possible neighborhood consensus. With that goal in mind, the organization is open to all and functions by consensus.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is not formally affiliated with any other organization but is willing to work with all groups and individuals who are committed to ending this illegal and immoral war fought by our fellow citizens, paid for with our tax dollars, and prosecuted in our name.

*The recent Johns Hopkins/Lancet report places the figure at 655,000+



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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The Pain and Sorrow of the Afghanistan War Hits Home

By Chuck Zlatkin

President Obama was at Dover Air Force base last Thursday morning as the bodies of 18 American troops killed in Afghanistan were returned to U. S. soil. Among the dead was Staff Sgt. Luis Gonzalez, 28, of Corona, Queens. Gonzalez, after serving two tours in Iraq, was serving a tour in southern Afghanistan. He was leading his squad on patrol through part of the Arghandab Valley in an eight-wheeled armored vehicle when it was blown up by a homemade bomb.

Most of the local media carried the news that Gonzalez had a wife and a five-month old son, that he attended John Bowne high school, that he was a Yankee fan, and had wanted to be a soldier since he was a little kid. Some of the coverage also mentioned that Gonzalez’s family was “too heart-broken to talk and were mourning privately.”

Well, the Gonzalez family was mourning, but they were also anguish-ing over whether they should talk publicly about their opposition to the war. On Friday, Bienvenida Gonzalez, the 60 year-old mother of the heavily decorated soldier came forward and said, “I don’t agree with this war. There’s a lot of families that it’s tearing apart.” Ms. Gonzalez, who had talked her son two weeks ago, and was looking forward to his return home from combat in January, decided, along with her husband, that they had to speak up about their opposition to the war in Afghanistan.

With the death of 59 American troops, October 2009 has become the deadliest month for American troops in the eight-year history of the Afghanistan war.



Photo by Gary Schriber